

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the present application as amended herein, and in view of the remarks provided below, is respectfully requested.

Status of the Claims

Claims 1-5, 7, 9-12, 14 and 16-19 were rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Welch et al. (US 6,286,145). The Examiner's rejections are respectfully traversed. The Examiner indicated that claims 6, 8, 13 and 15 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Without addressing the merits of the Examiner's rejections, and reserving the right to do so in a continuation application, the claims have been amended herein to place the application in condition for allowance. Independent claim 1 has been amended herein to include the subject matter of claim 6 and thus should be allowable. Claims 2-5 and 7-11 depend either directly or indirectly from claim 1 and thus should also be allowable. Independent claim 12 has been amended to include the subject matter of claim 13 and thus should be allowable. Claims 14-18 depend either directly or indirectly from claim 12 and thus should also be allowable. Claims 6, 13 and 19 have been canceled herein.

Entry of the amendments to the claims and allowance of all the claims is respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any questions regarding this paper, please contact the undersigned. If there are any fees in connection with the filing of this Amendment, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 10-0750/PPC-794/PJH.

Respectfully submitted,

By: __/Paul J. Higgins/_____
Paul J. Higgins
Registration No. 44,152

Johnson & Johnson
One Johnson & Johnson Plaza
New Brunswick, NJ 08933-7003
(732) 524-1728
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